

APAC COVID-19 Landscape Update Updated 15 September 2020

1. Overview

- **Globally**, foreign ministers of the G20 countries have issued a statement agreeing to address the resumption of cross border travel, in a safe manner.
- **Singapore** announces additional 'travel corridors' with Japan and South Korea
- **Vietnam** will gradually resume international commercial flights to six cities in Asia
- **Malaysia** will allow expatriates and professional visit pass-holders from 23 countries to enter, based on certain criteria, however borders will continue to remain shut till at least the end of this year.
- **Malaysia** Airport Berhad announced a relief package aimed at assisting its retail tenants across its airport network.
- **India** with rapid growth in Covid-19 numbers, we can only anticipate further restricted entry and exit to and from India.
- **Bhutan** has, in a bid to prevent the limit the spread of COVID 19 through illicit tobacco smugglers, allowed for duty free cigarettes to be sold domestically for the time being.

2. Political Developments

- [G20 foreign ministers](#) have agreed to review cross border travel in comprehensive testing and rigorous contact tracing. Ministers “ acknowledged the importance of opening borders, uniting families, opening economic movements within protective measures given by health organizations and national regulators.
- [Vietnam](#) Civil Aviation Authority reviews international commercial flights to and from Guangzhou, Seoul, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Taipei and Tokyo, starting on 15 September. Travellers require to comply with a quarantine. Ministry of Health announced that plans to lift the mandatory 14-day quarantine for foreign experts, investors, managers, and diplomats on short business trips of less than 14 days.
- [Malaysia](#)'s border restrictions will continue till the end of 2020, government extends the recovery movement control order (MCO) As such, borders will largely remain shut to foreign travellers. For business /diplomatic travellers granted approval will undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

- [South Korea and Singapore](#) have agreed on a 'travel corridor' arrangement for essential business and official travel between both countries. Eligible travellers will have to abide by the mutually agreed terms and prevailing public health measures in both countries, which includes pre-departure and post-arrival testing, and a controlled itinerary for the first 14 days after their arrival. Travellers must also be sponsored by a company /government.
- [Japan and Singapore](#) have established a 'travel corridor' for essential business and official travel, effective 18 September. This is the first such arrangement for Japan, and travellers will comply to pre-departure and post-arrival testing, and have controlled itinerary for the first 14 days in the receiving country. Further details will be released closer towards 18 September.
- [China](#) resumes international flights to Beijing on a selective basis from eight countries, with Cambodia and Thailand being the only Asian countries on the list for the time being. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) will only permit direct international flights to the capital with a daily cap of around 500 passengers, (the flight will be re-directed to another chinese city should three or more confirmed cases be found on the flight). All people entering the country must undergo a 14-day collective quarantine period for medical observation and be subjected test afterwards.

3. Regulatory Developments

- [Malaysia Airports Berhad \(MAB\)](#) announced a relief package valued at RM22 million (US\$5.3 million) aimed at assisting retail tenants across its airport network, which means 650 retail tenants (80% of the airport tenants) will enjoy rental reductions. Separately, the airport holdings also announced a new retail model for its tenants as part of its commercial reset strategy.
- [Bhutan](#) has allowed for duty free cigarettes to be sold in its domestic market temporarily in an attempt to reduce the risk of cross-border contamination brought about by tobacco trade from across the borders. State-owned duty-free stores will now be allowed to sell tobacco in Bhutan.

Annex A: Summary of 'travel corridors/arrangement' in Asia

Countries		Remarks
China	South Korea	Travellers require an invitation from companies / governments to travel and tested 72 hours before departure. Quarantined for up to 2 days upon arrival and subjected to another test, before being allowed to proceed with their trip.
Singapore	China	Travellers require an invitation/sponsored by companies / governments to travel and tested 48 hours before departure. Quarantined for up to 2 days upon arrival and subjected to another test, before being allowed to proceed with their trip. Trip itinerary to be submitted prior to departure and no deviations from submitted itinerary. The agreement covers 6 Chinese provinces and municipalities (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang)
Taiwan	Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Japan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, Laos, New Zealand, Palau, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam	Travellers require an invitation from companies / governments to travel and tested 3 days before departure. Travellers will be subjected to a quarantine, with the duration dependent on the length of stay of the traveller in Taiwan. Those residing in Taiwan for more than 3 months are mandated to complete the entire 14-day quarantine. The list of approved countries is dependent on the COVID-19 situation and would be updated regularly.
Indonesia	China, South Korea, United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Travellers (who can be officials business or employees) require an invitation from companies / governments to travel and tested 48-72 hours before departure, upon arrival to undergo further medical checks upon arrival.
Singapore	Brunei, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Korea (Seoul)	Travellers require an invitation from companies / governments to travel and must also remain in the departing country for 14 days prior to their arrival, and be subjected to testing with pre-declared controlled itinerary and downloading the relevant contact tracing application.

Singapore	Brunei, New Zealand	<p><u>Air Travel Pass(ATP)</u> The Air Travel Pass is a unilateral initiative by Singapore, currently in place for short term visitors from Brunei and New Zealand. Visitors must have remained in Brunei/New Zealand for 14 days prior to their arrival into Singapore.</p> <p>They must also seek approval prior to their departure and abide by the various control measures such as undergoing a swap test, abiding by a pre-declared controlled itinerary and downloading the relevant contact tracing application.</p>
Singapore	Malaysia	<p><u>Periodic Commuting Arrangement (PCA)</u> A scheme agreed between Singapore and Malaysia to allow work and business-related travel between the two countries via the land border crossings for long-term work permit holders from both countries.</p> <p>Under the PCA, individuals must remain in Singapore/Malaysia for at least 90 days before returning to their respective home countries. Other public health control measures do apply.</p>
